project basis is going on in the CSIR Lab., Palampur, HP Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Palampur, Dr. Y. S. Parmar University, Solan.

Rehabilitation package for IDPL

901. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PAUL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals "Ltd. (IDPL), a sick PSU, in consultation with the workers, prepared a revised rehabilitation plan, based on which the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals prepared a package which was forwarded to various Ministries; and

(b) if so, what was the reaction of various Ministries on the Package plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) The IDPL management in consultation with the workers, had prepared a rehabilitation plan and submitted to the Government on 24.10.1997. This Plan has now been updated by IDPL with cut-off dates as March 31, 2000 and June 30, 2000 and has been sent by the company recently to the Government.

Performance of NFL

902. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI KHAGEN DAS:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the performance of National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) during the last three years;

(b) whether Government have decided to sell 51 per cent shares of NFL to private investors;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the names of Indian private companies whose performance is comparatively better than NFL since its inception; and

(e) the names of private fertilizers companies, with a greater expertise and turnover in fertilizer production, than NFL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) Performance of National Fertilizers Ltd., (NFL) during the last three years on two major parameters of sales turnover and net profit is given below:—

	YEAR		
	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Sales Turnover (In Rs./Crores)	858.94	1185.86	1260.88
Net Profit (In Rs./Crores)	11.20	189.01	41.15

(b) and (c) Government have decided to disinvest a total of 51% of the NFL's equity held by the Government through strategic sale to a strategic buyer along with transfer of management control. This is in accordance with the policy of bringing down Government equity in all non-strategic PSUs to 26% or less.

(d) and (e) NFL is a multi-unit fertilizer PSU having two comparatively recent gas based plants at Vijaipur (Madhya Pradesh) and three FO/LSHS based old plants at Panipat (Haryana), Nangal & Bhatinda (Punjab). The performance of fertilizer companies differ from unit-to-unit and even from month-to-month depending upon the health and age of the plant, the feedstock used, the levels of capacity utilisation, energy consumption, distance from the source of the feedstock/raw materials, cost of inputs, etc. These are reflected in the variations in the performance of five units being run by NFL

itself. There is no private sector company which has a similar profile as that of NFL with relation to difference in feedstock, location, vintage of plants for meaningful comparison.

Making Sugar Industry Globally Competitive

903. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND, PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether rural economy and interests of sugarcane farmers and labour connected with this industry, are being adversely affected due to sickness of sugar industry, especially in UP and Bihar; and

(b) what steps Government are proposing to adopt to make sugar industry viable in domestic sector and competitive in international market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) The closure/sickness of sugar units in the country could be due to variety of factors such as inadequate cane availability, uneconomical size, old age and bad condition of plant and machinery, technical and managerial incompetence, excessively high cane price not commensurate with sales realisation and various other factors.

The sugar mills in the country are grouped in three sectors namely, Public, Private and Cooperative. The sick sugar mills belonging to Private and Public sectors are covered under the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Act, 1985. The sick sugar mills under the Cooperative sector are not required to be registered with Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) and are dealt with by the State Governments.

The Rehabilitation Scheme/Package approved by BIFR for sick mills take care of the interest of the workers.

In case of closure of a sugar mill, the State Government